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Gender focused Methods of Research

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Session objectives

- Identify the appropriate means for producing gender related information in CCA
- Identify key gender focussed research methodologies appropriate for CCA research
- Articulate the importance of adopting a gender perspective in research CCA projects

Research as a Tool

- The exclusion of sex and gender as variables in any type of research is a serious omission that leads to problems of validity and generalizability
- Has implications for adaptation measure being proposed or promoted ...many not address the needs of men, women and children

Shortcomings of gender insensitive research

- Treating sex like any other variable and failing to put it into context
- Assumptions about gender neutrality and the consequent failure to provide gender-sensitive research
- Treating sex and gender as the same thing
- Failing to disaggregate data based on sex
- Failing to analyze sex-disaggregated data
- Failing to report the results of sex-

Gender Focused Research : Reducing Biases

- Methods must involve:
 - Women (not men alone) as participants.
 - Women's and men's experiences within social hierarchies.
- Example:
 - **In depth interviews** with women that reveal women's understanding of power structures in relation to climate change and adaptability concerns.

Gender Focused : Representing Human Diversity

- Methods must acknowledge that:
 - Not all women (and not all men) experience climatic change impact in the same way.
- Examples:
 - Interviews (data collection) and **life history analyses** that examine unique life experiences of climatic changes and possible ways of adaptability.
 - Statistical methods that examine how sex category **interacts** with environmental practice and their effects on individual outcomes.

METHOD	TYPE METHOD	COMMENTS
Quantitative	Household surveys	Can include sex-disaggregated questions at no cost.
	Attitude surveys	Measures men and women's attitudes toward gender roles, behavior, access to services etc. Useful for prioritizing needs by gender..
	Time-use studies	Estimates the time women and men spend collecting water and fuel, traveling to work, performing domestic activities and other unpaid and paid productive activities

Qualitative	Focus groups and community fora.	Seeks the opinions of community groups on their problems and priority needs, and their experience with interventions
	Participatory rural Appraisals (PRA)	To capture gender differences, in many cultures it is important to listen to men and women in separate settings.
	Gender Frameworks : Harvard, Moser etc	These provide a framework for other methods to identify gender issues

Triangulation of Research methods

- use a range of data collection methods to address the gender dimensions of vulnerability. No single method can cover all of the issues, and it is important to combine quantitative and qualitative methods.

Questions at each stage of the research process

Research Questions

- Does the research question exclude one sex
- Does the research question take the male as the norm for both sexes

Research Questions

- Does the research question take the family or household as the basic analytical unit
- Does the research question assume that men and women are homogeneous groups
- Does the research question construct men as actors and women as acted upon?

Literature review

- Does the phenomenon under consideration affect both sexes?.
- Does the literature address issues of diversity among women and men?

Research design

- If the phenomenon under investigation affects both sexes, does the research design adequately represent both sexes?
- Of the major variables examined in the study, are they equally relevant to men and women?
- Does the study take into account the potentially different life situations of men and women?

Research design

- Is the same research focus, method or approach used for both females and males?
- Is the sex of all participants in the study, reported and controlled for?

Research Methods and Data Gathering

- Has the research instrument been validated on diverse groups of both sexes?
- Does the research instrument take one sex as the norm for both sexes
- Are opinions asked of one sex about the other treated as fact rather than opinion?

Data Analysis and Interpretation

- If only one sex is being considered, are conclusions nevertheless drawn in general terms?
- Are data interpreted by taking one sex as the norm?

Data Analysis and Interpretation

- Have the potentially different implications for the two sexes been made explicit?
- Are gender roles or identities presented in absolute terms? Are stereotypes perpetuated?
- Is equal attention given to female and male responses?

Points to remember

- Most methods of research can be used to attain gender sensitive results and outcomes
- Method depends on specific methodology and research questions.
- Gender methodologies and methods assume that knowledge is socially constructed.
- Developing the most accurate and complete “knowledge” requires use of methods that reveal and embrace diversity of social experience.